

Local Fiscal Highlights

- There is no direct fiscal effect on other political subdivisions at this time. However, if the bill's provisions result in an increase in revenue (compared to costs), then local governments would gain money distributed through the Auto Registration Distribution Fund. Should costs exceed revenue, local governments could lose money.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

The bill provides for the issuance of Ducks Unlimited license plates. The plates would be available for a contribution of \$15, a fee of \$10 for compensating the BMV for issuing the plates, the regular \$20 license tax, plus any local permissive tax. The \$10 Bureau fee would be deposited into the Bureau of Motor Vehicles Fund. The contribution would be transmitted from the Bureau to the Treasurer of State for deposit into the Ducks Unlimited License Plate Fund. The contributions received by the fund would then be paid to the Ohio Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, Incorporated. The bill specifies that all revenues received from the sale of Ducks Unlimited license plates are to be used solely for the purpose of “protecting, enhancing, restoring, and managing wetlands and conserving wildlife habitat.”

The plates could be combined with a request for a special reserved license plate. Under existing law, reserved plates contain three or fewer characters (letters and/or numbers), and cost an additional \$10. Of this money, the Bureau retains \$7.50 and \$2.50 is paid into the Roadside Park and Beautification Fund. Personalized plates contain between four and six characters and cost an additional \$35, of which \$5 is kept by the BMV and \$30 goes to roadside park improvements.

It can not be estimated how many plates would be sold. Some special plate designs have far exceeded others in sales. According to the Bureau, the *entire* special plate program breaks even, more or less. However, the BMV has determined that it takes an average of seven years for *individual* special plate programs to be self-supporting. In fact, nearly 2,000 plates must be sold to recoup programming costs alone. Should the \$10 charge ever become insufficient to cover program costs, the Bureau would need to rely on moneys that eventually are distributed to local governments (counties, municipalities, and townships) via the Auto Registration Distribution Fund. Any dollars collected by the BMV over and above operational costs are redistributed back to local governments. There is no direct fiscal effect on other political subdivisions at this time. However, if the bill's provisions result in an increase in revenue (compared to costs), then local governments would gain money distributed through the Auto Registration Distribution Fund. Should costs exceed revenue, local governments could lose money.

The following table gives several examples of annual sales scenarios.

Estimated Units Sold	\$10 BMV Fee	\$15 Contribution
1,000	\$10,000	\$15,000
5,000	\$50,000	\$75,000
10,000	\$100,000	\$150,000
20,000	\$200,000	\$300,000

□ *LBO staff Joshua N. Slen, Senior Analyst*

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